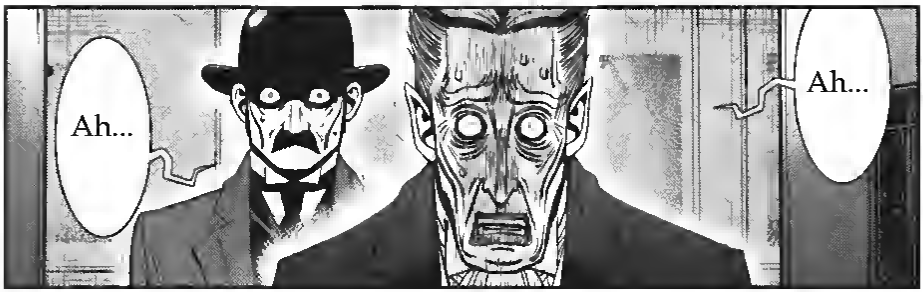
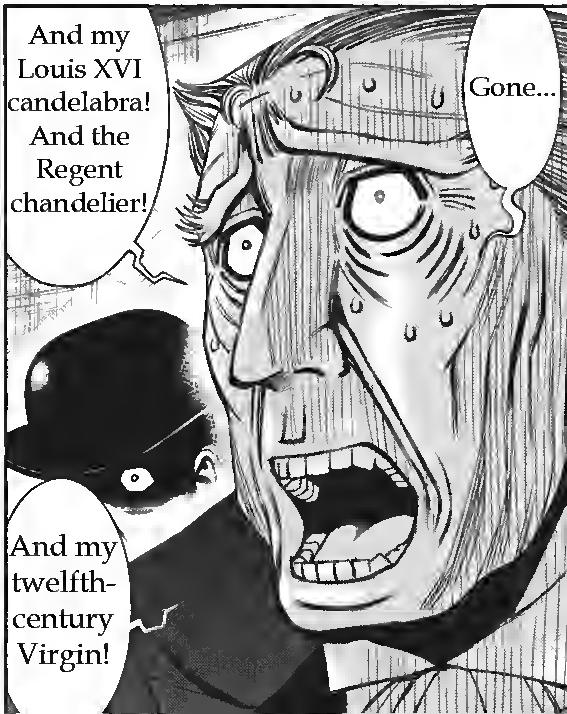
Arsène Lupin
Arsène Lupin
Arsène Lupin


Ah...
Ah...

Aaaah!!

Arsène Lupin
Arsène

It's Arsène Lupin's deed…
It's Lupin...


And my Louis XVI candelabra! And the Regent chandelier!
Gone...
And my twelfth-century Virgin!

CHAPITRE 3
Arsène Lupin in Prison (part 2)
Arsène Lupin
Arsène Lupin

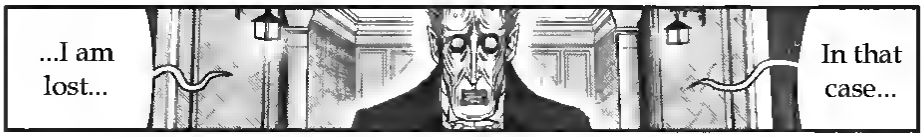
!

What are you doing!!?
Hey! *Diable*!! Wake up!!!
Why are you asleep!!?

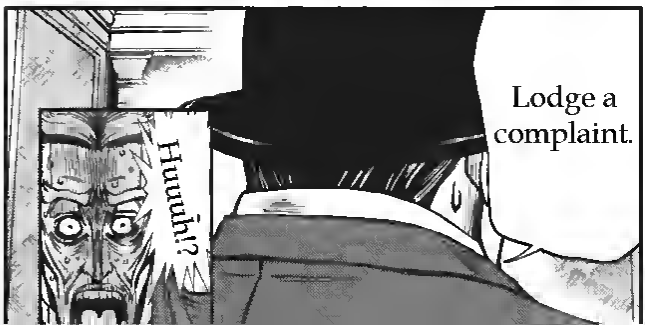
They have been drugged …
T-This is...

By him, of course!
By whom?
Dear me...

This is his usual technique… That work bears his stamp!
But he was the one to give the order!
Or by his men under his discretion …


...I am lost...
In that case...

I had counted on you!
Is it not dreadful!?


Huuuh!?
Lodge a complaint.

Can nothing be done!?
……

At any rate, it is well to try it...
The law has some resources ...
They would not even listen to me!
What good will that do!?
This time, you are a victim!
I have been aban-doned ...
It is use-less ...
.....
Why, my dear monsieur. Arsène Lupin never leaves any clue behind him!
Discover something with Arsène Lupin!
You do not even stir!
Besides, at this moment, when you should be looking for a clue and trying to discover something...

Mustn't I renounce them...?
Then ...

He has taken the gems of my collection!
My paintings! My reliquaries! My candelabra!

Sometimes I think he put himself in my way…
He leaves nothing to chance!
…and simply allowed me to arrest him in America!

Eh?
Now, that… is sensible. Will you stick to it?

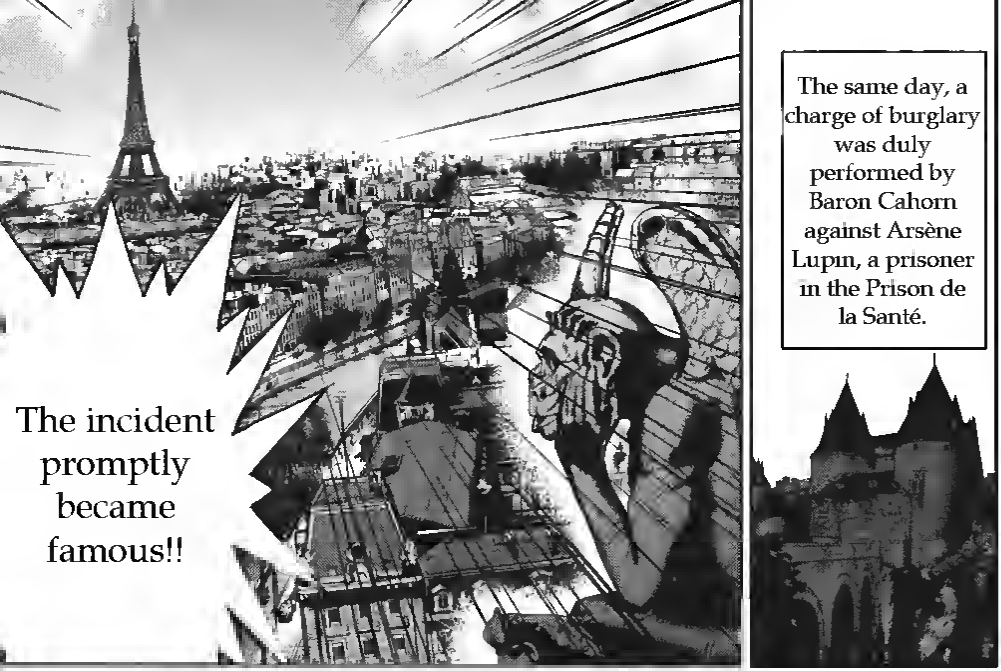
Y-Yes.

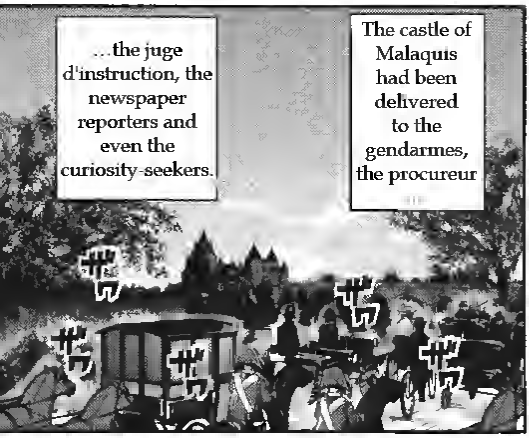
... I would give a fortune!
In order to recover them…

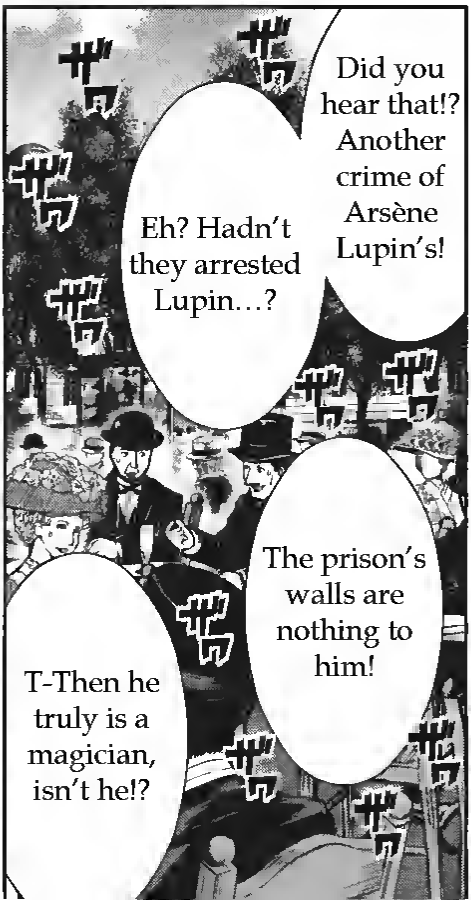
What is it...?
... Then I have an idea.
We will discuss it later —if the official examination does not succeed.
!
!

Uh... Unghhh ...
!
It is true I have nothing to boast of in this affair.
If you wish me to succeed
But, not one word about me.
You're awake!
.....

…It doesn't seem to be particular in any way…
ふーっ
……
ﾌｫﾛﾛ
Did you drink anything?
…I see, so you can't remember a thing…
…Yes, I drank a little water out of that carafe…
One can't decide an Arsène Lupin problem in five minutes.
カﾂ
We are wasting our time …
However, the decisive round shall be mine!!
I shall allow him to win this second round!
I swear I will catch him again!
… But, *mor-bleu*! …

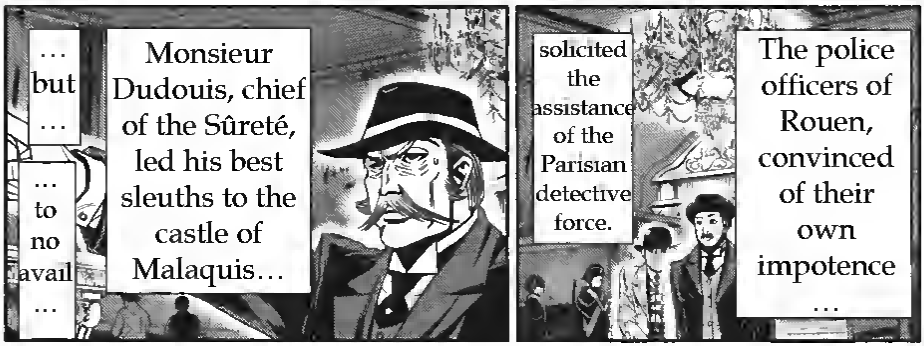

The incident promptly became famous!!
The same day, a charge of burglary was duly performed by Baron Cahorn against Arsène Lupin, a prisoner in the Prison de la Santé.


...the juge d'instruction, the newspaper reporters and even the curiosity-seekers.
The castle of Malaquis had been delivered to the gendarmes, the procureur


Did you hear that!? Another crime of Arsène Lupin's!
Eh? Hadn't they arrested Lupin...?
The prison's walls are nothing to him!
T-Then he truly is a magician, isn't he!?

... devastating my castle!
Please stop ...
Please stop...
.....

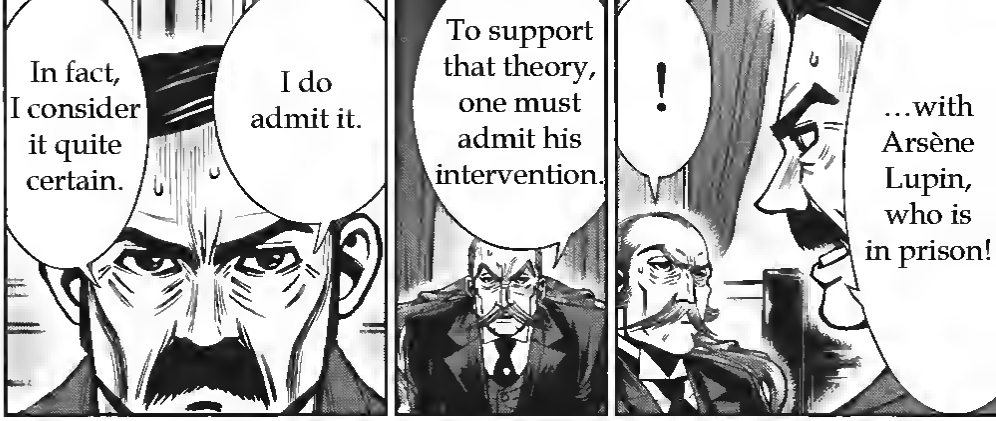
L'Écho de France
Le journal de tout
Mais la lettre initiale d' Arsène Lupin
… caused considerable excitement!
But the letter of Arsène Lupin that was published in the Echo de France, that letter in which Baron Cahorn was warned of the coming theft…


… but …
… to no avail …
Monsieur Dudouis, chief of the Sûreté, led his best sleuths to the castle of Malaquis…
solicited the assistance of the Parisian detective force.
The police officers of Rouen, convinced of their own impotence …

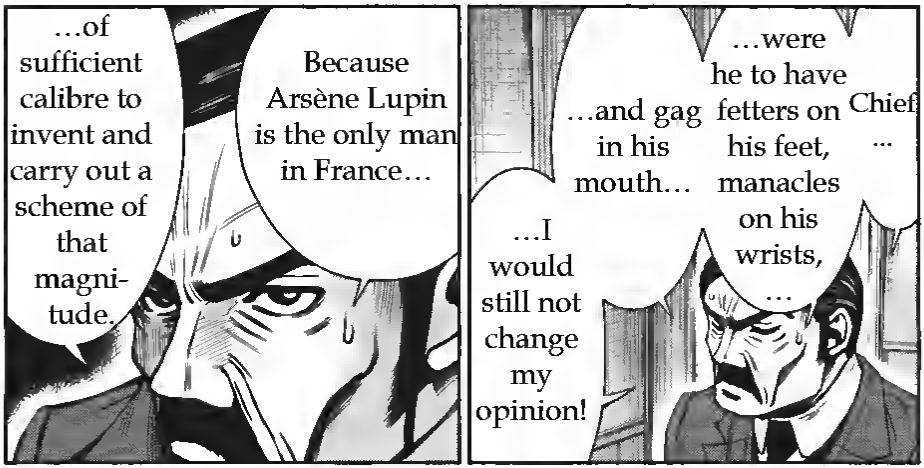
Parisian Police HQ
Paris, quai des Orfèvres

カ//

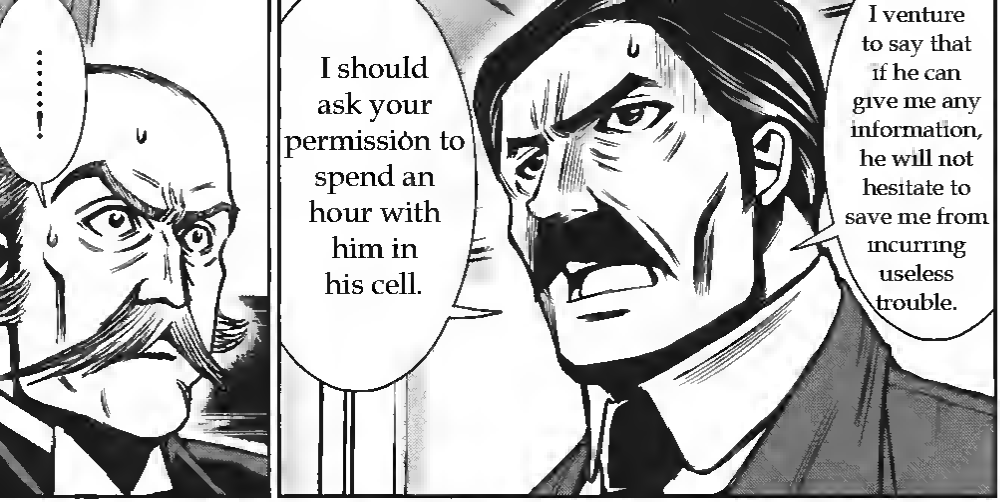
I, Ganimard …
…have arrived.
Welcome …
Mhm…
……
About those famous sub-terranean tunnels …
…we've searched the house from top to bottom, questioned every stone, studied the wainscoting and the chimneys, the window-frames and the girders in the ceilings, but…
…we've concluded that no secret passage exists!
… I give up, Ganimard.
…In my opinion, it is useless to search the castle.
Monsieur Dudouis …
The solution of the problem lies…
……
Then what should we do?
Use less?

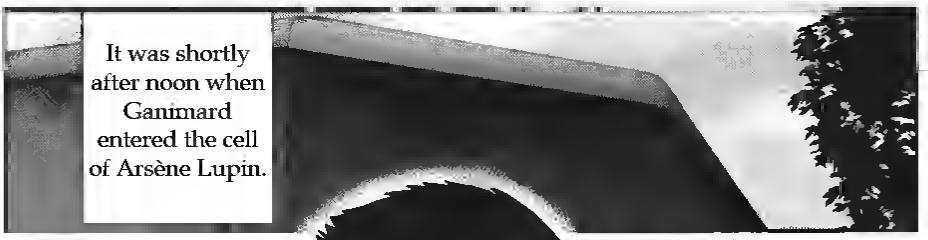

In fact, I consider it quite certain.
I do admit it.
To support that theory, one must admit his intervention.
!
…with Arsène Lupin, who is in prison!

What of it?
Yes!
But he is in prison!


…of sufficient calibre to invent and carry out a scheme of that magnitude.
Because Arsène Lupin is the only man in France…
…I would still not change my opinion!
…and gag in his mouth…
…were he to have fetters on his feet, manacles on his wrists, …
Chief …

I daresay he has some sympathy for the man who arrested him.
… Chief… During the return trip from New York, we became very friendly.
……!

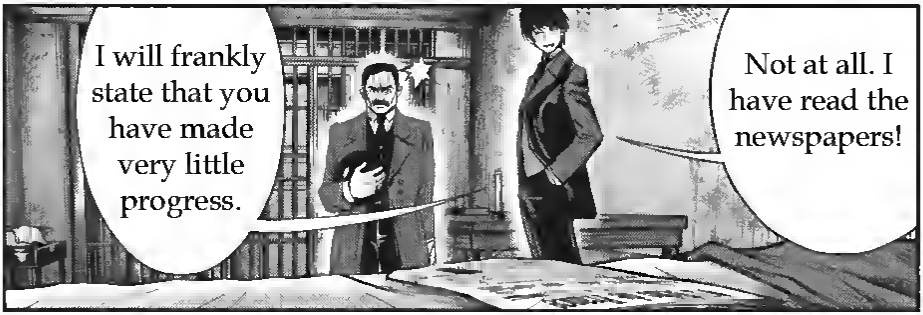

.....!
I should ask your permission to spend an hour with him in his cell.
I venture to say that if he can give me any information, he will not hesitate to save me from incurring useless trouble.


It was shortly after noon when Ganimard entered the cell of Arsène Lupin.

My dear Ganimard, here!
Ah! This is a real surprise!

Your ability rivals that of the great detective from Conan Doyle's novels, Sherlock Holmes!
The most famous detective in all of France!
Not at all. You know I hold you in the highest regard.
Very kind of you to receive me like this.
……
… Would that still be too much flattery …?
"Almost" rivals …?
…No, I might be praising you too much…
ブ
ブ
ブ
……
To what do I owe the honor of this visit?
So, Monsieur Ganimard.
The Cahorn affair.
Ah! yes, now I have it!
Wait, one moment. You see, I have had so many affairs!
Uhm...
Cahorn?

Must I explain to you what steps the authorities have taken in the matter?
There are many better things!
Ma foi, all that is of slight importance!
.....
...and a few trifling articles.
...
Two Rubens, a Watteau,
...
...
Seine-Inférieure
...
The Cahorn affair
...
Malaquis castle
...
Trifling!


I will frankly state that you have made very little progress.
Not at all. I have read the newspapers!

And that is the reason I have come to appeal to your good will.

From A to Z.
Yes.
...the Cahorn affair was managed by you?
In the first place, ...

Here.
!
I ought to have the receipts some-where.
All mine.
…The letter of warning? The telegram …?
!
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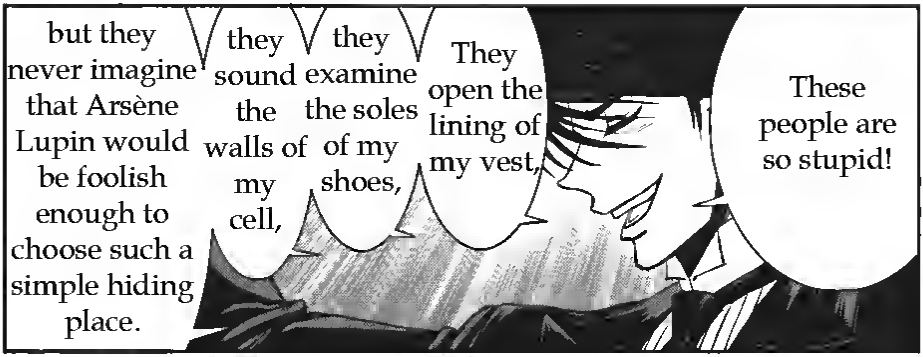
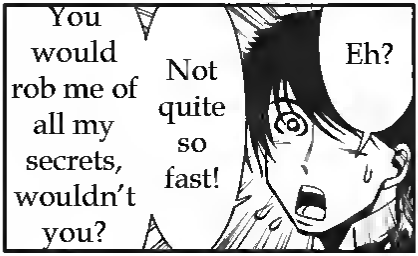
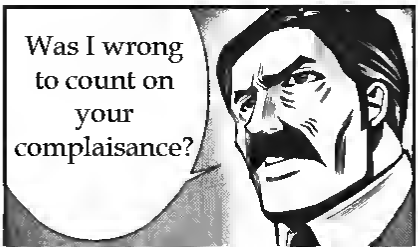
…and I find that you read the news-papers and collect postal receipts.
… I'm surprised, I thought you were closely guarded and searched, …


but they never imagine that Arsène Lupin would be foolish enough to choose such a simple hiding place.
they sound the walls of my cell,
they examine the soles of my shoes,
They open the lining of my vest,
These people are so stupid!


You would rob me of all my secrets, wouldn't you?
Not quite so fast!
Eh?

Come now, tell me about the Cahorn affair.
… Fine then.

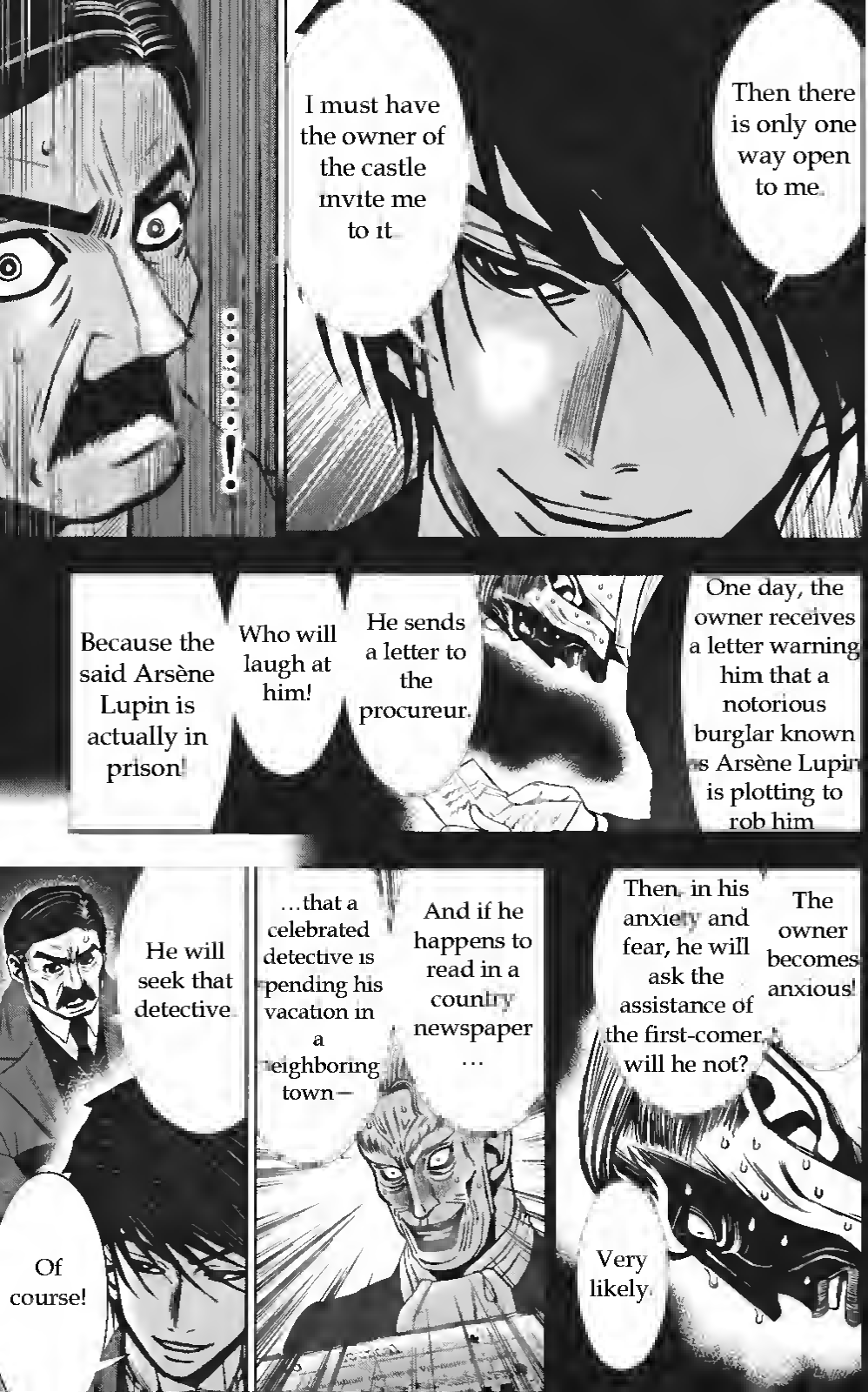
What a droll fellow you are!
……


Was I wrong to count on your complaisance?

I'll make an exception.
Since you insist…
Then …
Dear me …
No …
Eeeh …
… of my letter to the baron?
What do you think …
I want you to understand that the letter was indispensable.
It was the motor that set the whole machine in motion.
Do I, Arsène Lupin, ever waste my time on such puerilities?
No, I do not!
Would I have written that letter if I could have robbed the baron without writing to him?
Ah! No, no!
I think you were amusing yourself by playing to the gallery.
Come, Ganimard! I thought you knew me better!

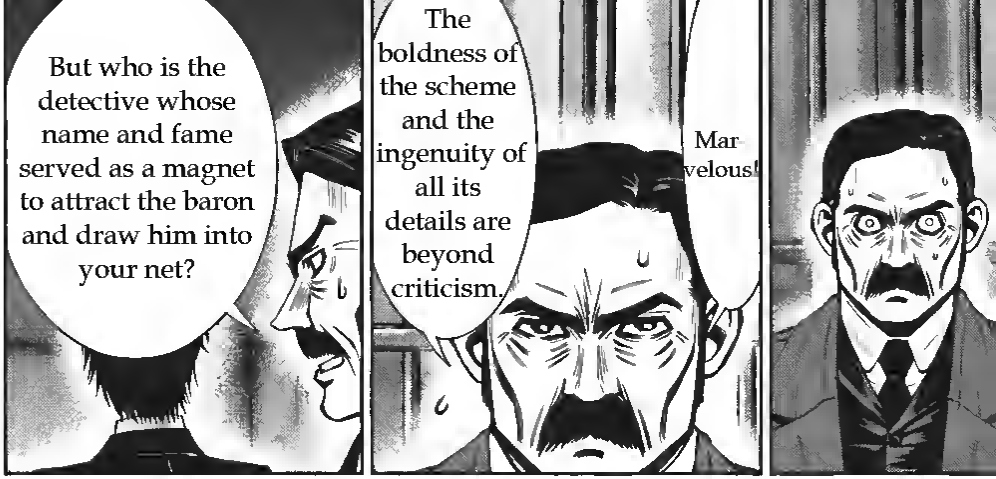
Now, let us discuss together a scheme for the robbery of the Malaquis castle. Are you willing?
Very good.
.....

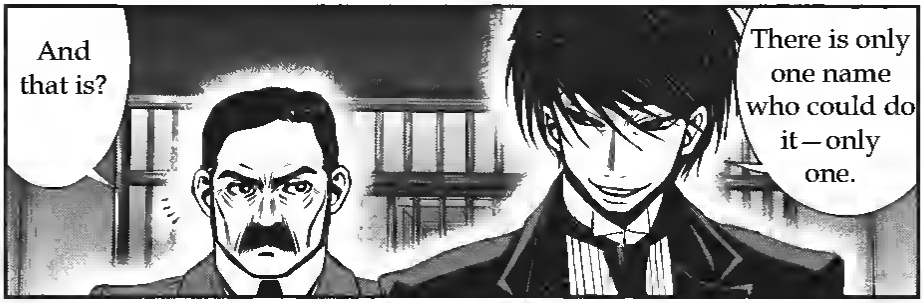
Evidently not
Am I to abandon my scheme, upon the pretext that the castle which holds them is inaccessible?
It is filled with treasures I covet.
Well, let us suppose a castle carefully closed and barricaded like that of thr Baron Cahorn.
Im-possible.
Can I gain admittance by stealth or cunning?
That would be foolish.
Should I make an assault upon the castle at the head of a band of adventurers as they did in ancient times?


I must have the owner of the castle invite me to it
Then there is only one way open to me
Because the said Arsène Lupin is actually in prison!
Who will laugh at him!
He sends a letter to the procureur.
One day, the owner receives a letter warning him that a notorious burglar known as Arsène Lupin is plotting to rob him
He will seek that detective
Of course!
…that a celebrated detective is pending his vacation in a neighboring town—
And if he happens to read in a country newspaper …
Then, in his anxiety and fear, he will ask the assistance of the first-comer, will he not?
The owner becomes anxious!
Very likely.

He went to meet him.
ズル…
……
……
My subordinate, disguised as the fake detective!
Ku ku ku …
Good job, Charolais.

Of course, the pseudo-detective at first refuses to give any assistance.
I see...
... and lower them with ropes into a nice little launch chartered for the occasion.
On top of that comes the telegram from Arsène Lupin.
My friend accepts and summons two members of our band.
The frightened baron rushes once more to my friend and offers him a definite sum of money for his services.
Whilst Cahorn is under the watchful eye of his protector...
...the two subordinates remove certain articles by way of the window.


But who is the detective whose name and fame served as a magnet to attract the baron and draw him into your net?
The boldness of the scheme and the ingenuity of all its details are beyond criticism.
Mar-velous!


And that is?
There is only one name who could do it—only one.

What!?
Arsène Lupin's personal enemy—the most illustrious Ganimard!

...that it will be your duty to arrest yourself, Ganimard!
If you continue your investigation, you shall find out...
The revenge is really amusing, is it not? Ah-hah-hah ...
I cause Ganimard to arrest Ganimard!

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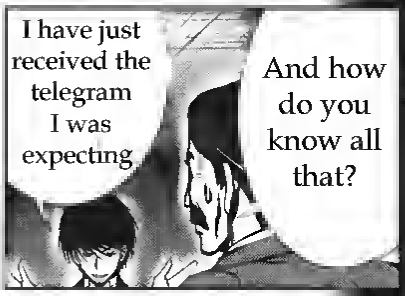
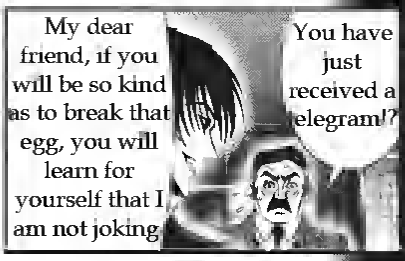
カチャ
フゥ…

What did you say?
The Cahorn affair is on the point of being settled
But, rest easy, my dear Ganimard ...


I have just received the telegram I was expecting
And how do you know all that?


My dear friend, if you will be so kind as to break that egg, you will learn for yourself that I am not joking
You have just received a telegram!?

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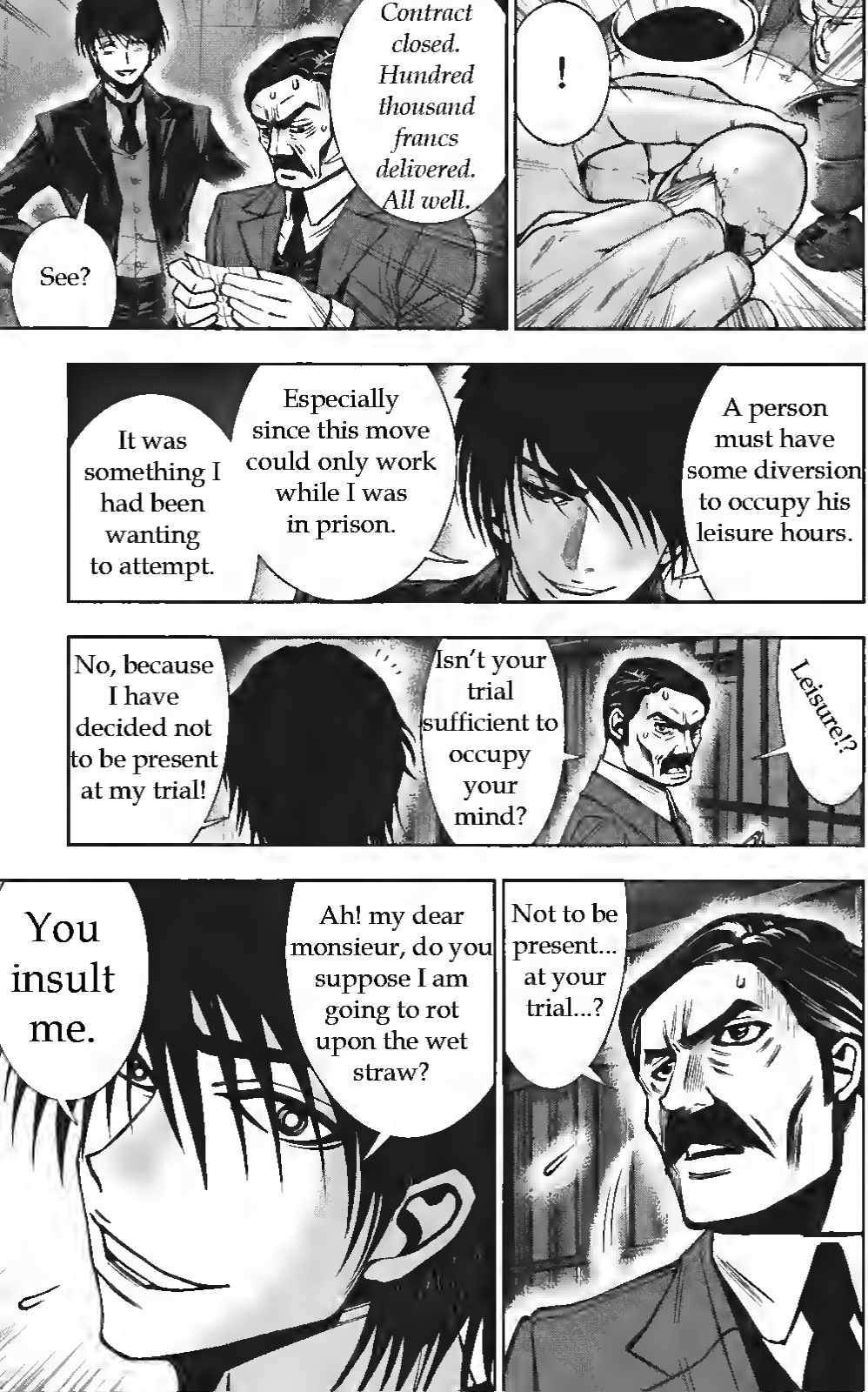
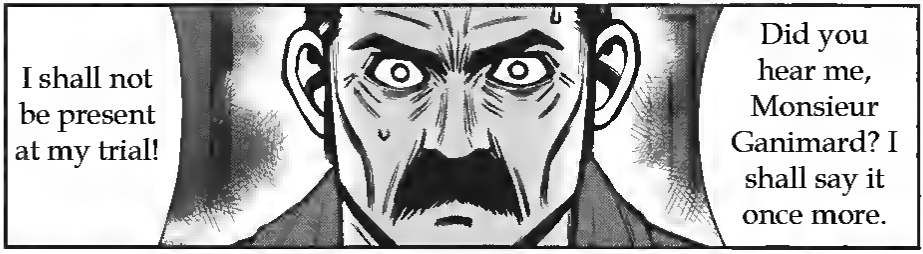
カシ
?

This is the reason the baron had never mentioned the detective!
He has authorized the pseudo Ganimard to negotiate a very delicate transaction with me

At the present moment in consideration of a certain sum, it is probable that the baron has recovered possession of his prized trinkets.


See?
Contract closed. Hundred thousand francs delivered. All well.
!
It was something I had been wanting to attempt.
Especially since this move could only work while I was in prison.
A person must have some diversion to occupy his leisure hours.
No, because I have decided not to be present at my trial!
Isn't your trial sufficient to occupy your mind?
Leisure!?
You insult me.
Ah! my dear monsieur, do you suppose I am going to rot upon the wet straw?
Not to be present... at your trial...?

Not one minute more!
Arsène Lupin remains in prison just as long as it pleases him!


I shall not be present at my trial!
Did you hear me, Monsieur Ganimard? I shall say it once more.

I shall escape from here
before the trial even begins!
CHAPITRE 3◆END

AVENTURIER TAKASHI MORITA ORIGINAL STORY BY MAURICE LEBLANC